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13 October 1992

Jerome E. Dennis

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Dear Sir,

HFŽ-312

Rockville MD 20750 USA

Thank you for sending us the notice of consideration of possible amendments to the laser performance standard. As a European manufacturer exporting to the US we very much welcome the proposal of increased harmonisation with IEC825. The lasers we manufacture are all Class IV and so the main changes that will affect us are point 9 on safety interlocks and points 13-15 on labelling.

As you comment in point 9, safety interlocks are not now required by IEC825 on Class IV lasers on the grounds, presumably, that the hazard inside the laser is no worse than the hazard presented by the beam itself. I must say that I found this surprising and consider that lifting the lid of the laser box whilst the laser is running should not expose the user to laser radiation above Class 1. This could be achieved either by interlocking the lid so that the laser turns off, or by fully enclosing the beam within the box. The beam should be enclosed inside a cover which is either interlocked itself or which requires a tool to remove it.

It would be very helpful if the FDA regulations and the IEC regulations had the same view on what constituted safe practice in this regard. Manufacturers would of course design their product to satisfy the most stringent of the two codes so very little is achieved by having different regulations.

An agreement that the same labels can satisfy the requirements in the US and Europe would also be very helpful to us.

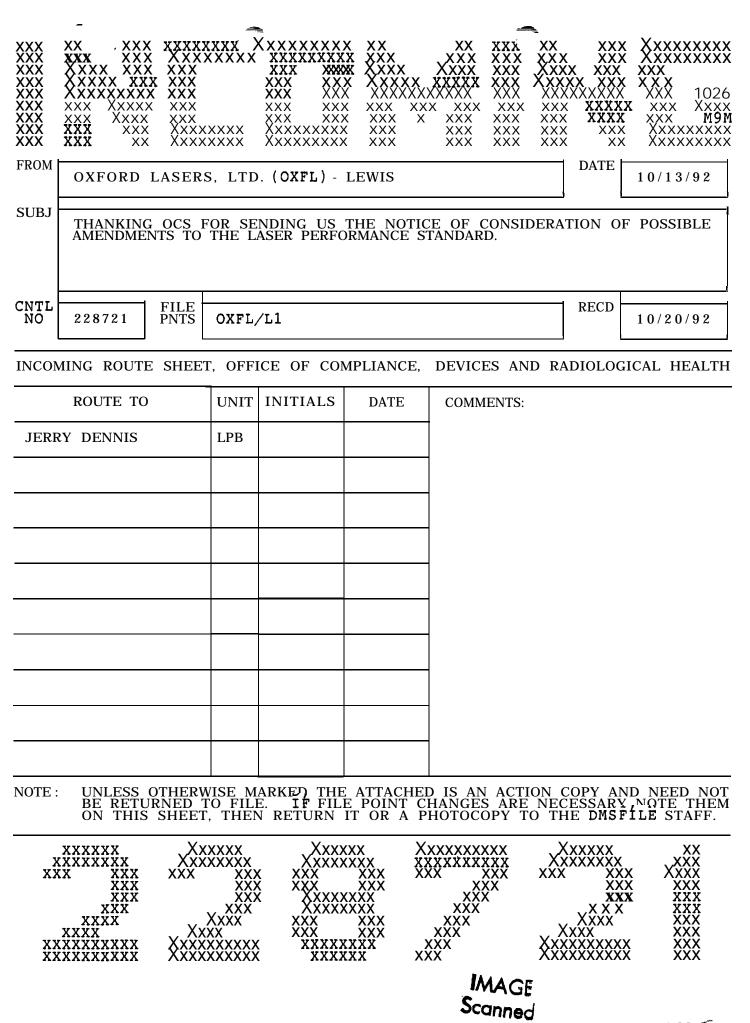
I look forward to receiving the new regulations in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Rhvs Lewis

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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